

THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

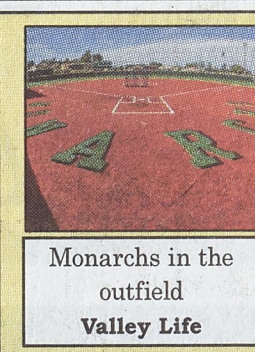
VOLUME 84, Issue No. 1

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM



Bursting into the
playoff scene
Sports



Monarchs in the
outfield
Valley Life



Cafeteria spices up
Monarch Center
Valley Life

GRAND OPENING

A taste of the Monarch Center

■ Valley's new cafeteria gives Monarchs various food options.

BY MELINDA HENDRICKS
& RICARDO VARELA

The smell of char-broiled-chicken breast, hamburgers, and taco meat filled the cafeteria at the new Monarch Center at Valley College.

Jesus "Chuy" Angulo and his staff of 23 held the grand opening of the new cafeteria on Monday, a partial inauguration of Valley's latest building.

The structure, set between the Campus Center and the Art Building, is built in what some experts describe as the postmodern green style of architecture. Its outer design features angular edges and several glass panels. "Monarchs" and an image of the school mascot is emblazoned on the main facade which houses the cafeteria. The east side of the building includes the student bookstore, the business office and a coffee bar. The west side boasts outdoor benches and lounging areas, faculty offices, the student union offices, the student health center and a student lounge. None of these areas



ALVIN CUADRA / PHOTO EDITOR

FOOD IS THE FOCAL POINT - Valley College's new Monarch Center, featuring a state-of-the-art cafeteria, is now the epicenter of campus life.

were open Monday, but will open later this semester.

"We're doing 50 percent of our menu today," said Angulo. "We're going to start serving fresh pasta in few hours. We're going to offer fresh-baked pizza and Chinese food next week."

"I am excited about the new cafeteria because it means that students will

have more choices of what to eat and an inviting place to enjoy their food," said Valley College President Dr. Ericka Endrijonas. "For too long, students have had to hunt for shade or a table to enjoy their breakfast or lunch, but now our state-of-the-art building provides the type of welcoming environment they deserve."

Inside, the kitchen is split in two. The combination breakfast, burger, and sandwich station is flanked by two coolers. They hold bottled milk, juice, fruit cups, whole bananas and apples, a selection of fresh salads, quinoa, and par-faits. Burritos, sandwiches, and burgers are made to order and start at \$6.75.

Pre-packaged salads start at \$5.50. Fountain drinks come in 24 and 32 oz. and are priced at \$1.50 and \$1.75 respectively.

The kitchen features a stone pizza oven and wok station that will fire up next week. Dessert options are stored in their own rack

see Cafeteria p. 3

Valley's keeping it green

■ By utilizing sustainable resources, Valley has reached its gold and silver standards.

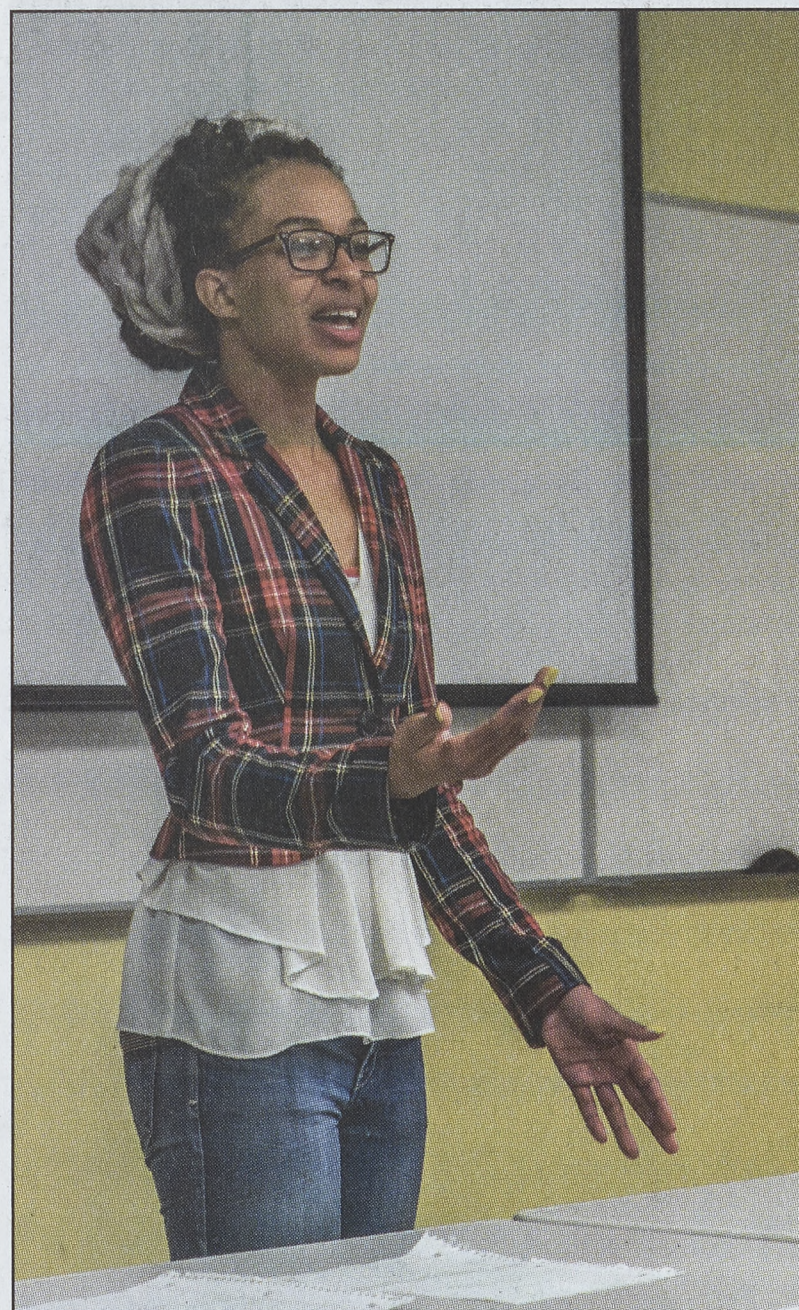
BY PAUL ROSENBUSCH
STAFF WRITER

The opening of the \$37 million Monarch Center Monday marks the seventh installment in a series of \$626 million of new sustainable construction and renovations that are shaping the future of Valley College.

The 41,000 square-foot, 2-story contemporary architecture facility is built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Science (LEED) Silver standards, and features insulated roofs, storm-water mitigation creeks, and recycled or renewable materials where possible.

"The new landscape is relaxing to spend time in," said Manny Cordova, an undecided freshman who plans to transfer to CSUN. "The new architecture is very cool and inviting, especially the second level patio." Cordova graduated from Arleta High School, which is a fairly new campus. He added, "the

see Green p. 3



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

SPEAKING OUT - BSU Secretary Acacia Ingram speaks at an event.

Narrowing the racial divide

■ Black History Month: addressing racial tension.

BY DEDE OGBUEZE
STAFF WRITER

Some say since the death of Trayvon Martin in 2012, the racial divide in America has once again been thrust into the spotlight. Valley College's Black Student Union plans to use Black

History Month to address the race issues that are plaguing the nation.

Throughout America's complicated history with Civil Rights, student bodies have been at the forefront of the equality struggle. Students at North Carolina A&T University, Bennett

College, and Greensboro College for Women spearheaded the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins. This drew national media coverage and led to sit-ins at college towns across the country.

Fast forward to 2015, students at USC, Occidental College, Yale University and most notably, the University of Missouri—where several members of the football team refused to play until their university president resigned—fiercely protested racial insensitivity and injustices on campus.

Several hundred Occidental College students occupied the administration building for five days and presented a list of 14 demands to the administration. Students demanded the administration fund a major in black studies and appoint a chief diversity officer.

Some of the outrage that sparked the national protests was due to university administration's inability to deal with student-on-student incidents of racism. Students who instigated the confrontations seemed culturally insensitive or oblivious to racism. Much like when members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at UCLA threw a "Kanye West-themed" party where some attendees wore blackface and dressed in baggy jeans and wore gold teeth.

Valley College's Black Student Union believes that opportunities like Black History Month can be beneficial in opening a dialogue that gives insight to why such an instance is racist. Not only to provide historical context of Blackness in America, but to increase awareness of contemporary cultural differences and the present racial climate in our

country.

Valley will be taking a fresh approach to Black History Month. Too often Black history is solely associated with slavery and the Civil Rights Movement.

"Black culture and racism in America do not exist solely in the 1900s," said Acacia Ingram, a second-year student. "It is important to see current depictions of Blackness, not just slavery and Jim Crow."

Starting Feb. 22, the Black Student Union will host daily events dedicated to celebrating Blackness, spreading awareness and honoring Black men and women who have helped shape American culture. The first event will be a screening of "Dear White People"—a film that tackles racial insensitivity on college campuses—followed by a panel discussion and reflection in the student services multipurpose room (SSC 245) at 2 p.m..

BSU members will lead a town hall discussion titled "Black Lives, Black Culture - A Discussion on Current Topics" Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room located in Campus Center.

Wednesday, BSU will be hosting a celebration in the student services plaza with a New Orleans Jazz band, which will feature traditional southern cuisine catered by Dulan's On Crenshaw Soul Food, an independently-owned soul food restaurant located in South Central, Los Angeles.

Members of BSU said it is important to for non-black students to attend Black History Month events and engage in the activities.

Deon, a BSU member, says "Being pro-black does not mean being anti-white."

UPCOMING VALLEY COLLEGE EVENTS

■ ASU will host Inter Club Council (ICC) Meeting tomorrow in CC 104 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

■ A "Black Heritage" celebration will be held today in the Student Services Plaza from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

■ A "Transfer 101" workshop will be held tomorrow from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Career/Transfer Center (CTC) in the Student Services Annex.

■ A Christian Debeau/April Kim concert will be held on Mar. 2 in Music 106 at 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

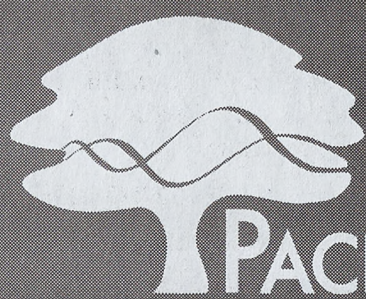
ANTICIPATION - After winning their last two games of the season, the Lady Monarchs are playoff bound for the first time in two years.

see story on page 4

ADVERTISEMENT

She is eager to
learn
Be ready to
teach

Pursue your teacher
credential at Pacific
Oaks College



PACIFIC OAKS
COLLEGE

pacificoaks.edu | 626.817.6505

SPORTS

Lady Monarchs ascend into playoffs riding two-game winning streak

■ Valley Women's Basketball is set to make their return to the postseason after a brief year-long stint.



DRIVEN - Sophomore forward Adaori Obi slashes through two College of the Canyons defenders Wednesday night en route to a 23-point win. Obi, the team's second-leading scorer finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds in victory.

By DEDE OGBUEZE
STAFF WRITER

Adaori Obi and Diamond O'Connor led the Lady Monarchs (14-13, 10-4) to a 64-41 landslide victory Wednesday night against a College of the

Canyons (23-5, 18-1) team that was undefeated in the Western State Conference.

After routing the Glendale College Vaqueros (3-24, 0-14) 74-29 Saturday afternoon, the Lady Monarchs have now secured a playoff berth. Valley will be

traveling to Orange Coast on Feb. 24 to compete in a play-in to determine who will face no. 1 seed Mt. San Antonio College in the second round of the tournament.

Obi, a sophomore forward who has committed

to play at UC Riverside, led the team in scoring and rebounding with 24 points on 8-18 shooting and 16 rebounds. Although it doesn't show in the stats sheet, her defensive presence was also a huge factor in the win. Her smothering defense

held star Canyons forward Hannah Green to 7 points in 34 minutes.

O'Connor contributed a stellar performance of her own. She scored 18 points and pulled in 4 rebounds and 1 blocked shot. Valley's double-high offense provided several opportunities for O'Connor to take defenders to the basket.

The Lady Monarchs established dominance early by jumping out to a 12-0 lead. Valley College led for the entire way and outscored College of the Canyons in all but the final quarter.

"The main focus this game was energy," said Obi, a biochemistry major. "I was hungry going into this game and everyone came in with that same mindset."

The primary ball handler for Valley is Diana Ruenas, a sophomore guard from San Fernando High School. Ruenas added 6 points, 2 steals, 3 rebounds, and 1 block.

"Our girls are so resilient," said head coach Monica Hang. "My message to them was as simple as it gets: have fun and play hard and I think their effort really showed tonight."

The Lady Monarchs had to be resilient, as the team has been plagued by injuries all season.

Sophomore star Sydney Hua (UC Irvine Commit) has been sidelined for the majority of the season with a stress fracture in her leg. Obi was also forced to sit multiple games this season after suffering a moderate concussion.

MONARCHS SPORTS CALENDAR

Women's Basketball

@Orange Coast
(SoCal Regional
Playoff,
Opponent TBA) -
Today, 7 p.m.

Baseball

@Valley, vs.
Folsom Lake -
Friday, 2 p.m.

@Valley, vs.
Folsom Lake
(Doubleheader)
- Saturday, 10 a.m.
AND 2 p.m.

@Irvine, vs.
Irvine Valley -
Tuesday, 2 p.m.

@Valley, vs.
Irvine Valley -
03/03, 2 p.m.

Softball

@Oxnard,
vs. Oxnard -
Tomorrow, 2:30
p.m.

@Moorpark,
vs. Moorpark -
Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

@Mission, vs.
Mission - Friday,
2 p.m.



California State
University

CHANNEL
ISLANDS



@AdoubleZ1

Registered for my business classes.
#justbringit #CSUCI #MBA

24
MAJORS



@ericcoreas19

My trip to @csuci #CSUCI
#futureddolphin

TRANSFER PREVIEW DAYS

Info & tours available on select Fridays at 2p.m.*

FEB. 19, 2016
MAR. 18, 2016
APR. 29, 2016

*Book your spot today!

RSVP: go.csuci.edu/preview



@lisaamireles

I love this dang dolphin and my
school 🐬 #FunPatrol



90
STUDENT
CLUBS & ORGS



CI Campus Recreation

CI Bicycle Kitchen is one of our many
sports clubs on campus. For more info,
visit: go.csuci.edu/recreation #GetOutThere



73%
RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID